

Confederate). casualties (4,298 Union; 3,420 figures represent 7,718 total Union; 236 Confederate). These were missing or captured (433 2,652 Confederate), and 669 were wounded (2,966 Union; Union; 532 Confederate), 5,618 1,431 soldiers were killed (890

tribute to the Northern victory. of the war, which helped con-Union hands for the remainder The battle kept Kentucky in erates closer to winning the war. again were the Western Confedthe Western Theater. Never mark" for the Confederates in Perryville was the "high water

ment at the Battle of Perryville. 24th Wisconsin Infantry Regi-Arthur MacArthur, served in the MacArthur's father, Lieutenant the war. General Douglas a very famous general later in General Philip Sheridan became

Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, ,iqqississiM Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Louisiana, 'euerpur Kansas, Georgia, Florida, , sionill Perryville: Alabama, Arkansas, represented in the Battle of There were at least 21 states

fighting. but only 90 participated in the There were 203 cannons here,

Confederate). area. (55,396 Union; 16,800 There were 72,196 men in the

Stats and Facts

engaged and were poised to attack the next morning. troops received Bragg's order, they were stunned with disbelief. What they did not know was that the majority of the Union army had not been soldiers were flushed with victory. It was almost midnight on the night of the battle when Braxton Bragg ordered a retreat. When Confederate Union troops, did not even know the battle was occurring until it was almost over. By about 11 p.m., the battle was over and the Confederate The Battle of Perryville was fought despite recurring communication problems and an unstable high command. General Buell, commander of

defense of the hill, Starkweather retreated southwest so his troops would not be cut off by Confederate forces advancing from the southeast. This stand was made on the large hill about 300 yards west of the Union Monument. After the Union troops were finally able to stabilize their been for the gallant defense made by Colonel John Starkweather's Brigade of veteran troops from Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. what is now White's Road and Hayes-Mayes Road (the Dixville Crossroads). The entire Union left flank would have been destroyed had it not on the town of Perryville and pointing northward, the Confederate army pushed McCook's I Corps back to the west past the intersection of On the far right of the C.S. line, Cheatham's Division began the main attack of the Battle of Perryville at 2 p.m. Like a large swinging gate hinged

area, the Confederate forces shifted farther north.

of Doctor's Creek. By around 10 a.m., the Confederates were ready to attack. However, when their scouts reported more Union troops in the believing no more Union troops were in the area, began to shift their forces northwest of town in preparation for a flank attack down the valley After capturing Peter's Hill, the Union III Corps was ordered to halt and wait for the rest of the Union army to gain position. The Confederates,

area near where Doctor's Fork Creek crosses US 150.

side town on the evening of October 7. On the morning of October 8, the Union III Corps attacked a Brigade of Arkansas troops and secured the the town of Perryville from the west on what is now US 150, they encountered the Confederate rear guard about two-and-one-half miles outthe stagnant pools of Doctor's Fork Creek and the Chaplin River near Perryville. They also found each other. As the Union III Corps approached Kentucky was in the throes of a major drought. Both armies crisscrossed the countryside looking for water. The thirsty troops found water in

in the Perryville area then unite all the Confederates to take on the main Union force near the small town of Salvisa, Kentucky. this imagined threat, leaving only 16,000 men to fight at Perryville. The Confederate plan was to attack what they believed to be the small force The ruse worked. Bragg mistakenly though the main Union force was marching towards Frankfort. Bragg send 1/4 of his army north to meet

force moving towards Frankfort would act as a diversion. The stage was set for the Battle of Perryville. main Union force, consisting of about 57,000, made a sweeping motion to the southeast to trap the Confederates in the state, while the smaller 22,000 strong, took the Bardstown Road; and General Charles Gilbert's III Corps, about 22,000 strong, took the Shepherdsville Road. Thus the byville Road. General Alexander McCook's I Corps, about 13,000 strong, took the Taylorsville Road; General Thomas Crittenden's II Corps, about Louisville on October 1, 1862, taking four different roads. Two U.S. divisions, about 19,000 men, marched straight toward Frankfort on the Sheltered Louisville on September 26. After refitting and reorganizing his army to incorporate new regiments, Buell marched his columns out of Ohio were also uneasy, the governors of the three states hurriedly sent new troops to Louisville and Cincinnati. Finally, Buell's ragged army en-Upon hearing of the Confederate invasion of Kentucky, the citizens of Louisville and Cincinnati were in a panic. Residents of Illinois, Indiana, and

pursuit. On September 3, Kirby Smith's troops captured the capital city of Frankfort. Bragg captured the Union garrison at Munfordville on Separound Don Carlos Buell's Union Army of Ohio near Nashville and raced toward Louisville. The Union forces in Nashville followed northward in near Richmond in August, 1862. The main Confederate force, the 22,000 men of Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army of the Mississippi slipped Kirby Smith's C.S. army moved from Knoxville surrounded and isolated a U.S. division at Cumberland Gap, and soundly defeated a Union army

South. Acting on claims that Kentuckians would rally to the Confederate cause, the two Confederate armies invaded Kentucky. ers of those armies, Generals Braxton Bragg and Edmond Kirby Smith, were convinced that control of Kentucky was of vital importance to the most of Tennessee, and even the strategic rail link of Corinth, Mississippi. Only two Confederate armies remained in Tennessee. The command-1862 had been discouraging for Confederate forces in the war's Western theater. Union troops had pushed the Confederates out of Kentucky,

"Ithink to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the

Abraham Lincoln

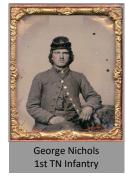
"Today we passed two men lying on the roadside having died fromsunstroke - the whole army suffered toseverely for want my servant Harriout with my and canteen told him not to return without water. He came in about 2 without o'clock any; our Division in the rear, hn ll the no been drunk up."



Killed in Action

"... you cannot imagine the horror of war. No pen nor tongue can begin to tell the misery that I have seen ..."

- Charles W. Carr, 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry



obstinate fighting I never had seen before or since. guns were dis-The charged so rapidly that it seemed the earth itself was in a volcanic uproar. The iron storm through passed ranks, mangling tearing men to pieces... Our men were dead and dying right in the very midst of this grand havoc of battle."

The Perryville Battlefield Trail System

The Perryville Battlefield interpretive trail system connects key points of the battle. This system has no "Trail Heads" or "Destinations". The trails consist predominately of mowed paths through grassy fields, although some of them traverse wooded areas. The trails that go north to south generally follow the lines of Union defense whereas the trails that go east to west generally follow the lines of Confederate attack. Supplemental to the interpretive trails are "Nature Trails." Please inquire with staff for more information on the park's natural features.

Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

1825 Battlefield Rd. PO Box 296 Perryville, KY 40468 859-332-8631

Hours of Operation

Park is open from daylight to dark. Museum April 1-October 31 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday Call for availability during off season.

Park admission is free. Museum admission is 3.50/adult & 2.50/child <12

For more information visit us at parks.ky.gov/ parks/ historicsites/ perryville-

battlefield or perryvillebattlefield.org

Free Battle of Perryville apps are available on both Droid and Apple devices.

The Friends of Ferryville Battle-



field

helps us preserve our history. Please visit their website at friendsofperryville.org.





Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site Interpretive Trail



parks.ky.gov

